Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/578503727



Downloaded on Mar 25, 2024

# Letters

## Mush!

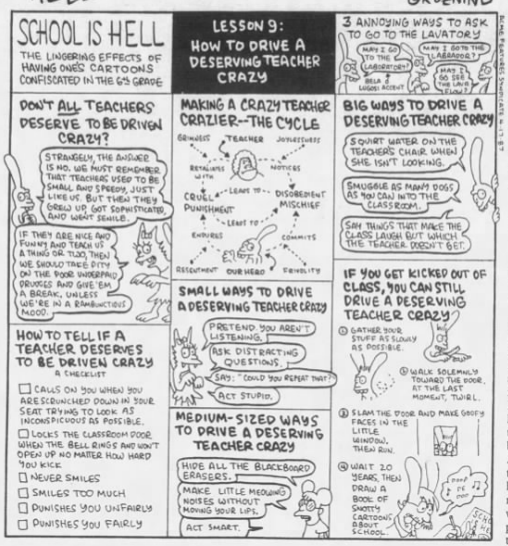
*Dear Editor:*

Pardon my naivete, but what are readers of a purported newspaper supposed to make of Jay Levin's deliriously self-incriminating interview with journalist-screenwriter David Freeman ["David Freeman's Pipe Dream," *L.A. Weekly*, April 3-9.]? Levin regales us with tales of Freeman's invented *New York* magazine cover stories, excusing them from judgment because Freeman is "so cherubic, gleeful and sophisticatedly ingenuous about the whole thing." Just out of curiosity, what about the same issue's cover story on one woman's battle against AIDS ["AIDS Alternatives"]? Is Alexandra Wolf truly afflicted, or merely cherubic and sophisticatedly ingenuous enough to win over your charmingly raffish editor?

For several years I have marveled at the *Weekly*'s unique ability to take important issues and reduce them to self-serving, ill-informed mush. Levin's neo-New Journalism musings have clarified the source of those distortions. At least David Freeman knew when it was time to get out of journalism.

—Michael London
Los Angeles

JAY LEVIN REPLIES: *a) I don't like or condone "piping"; b) Freeman is a historical anomaly, not a present threat, as (at least compared to the past) is "piping," or making up stories, editors and journalists having become far more careful since the Janet Cook case. Therefore, I found it possible to forgive Freeman and not beat him over the head with his past sins, which c) anyway, except for the good name of the press, were victimless. Freeman made up street characters, not quotes from or facts about real people. d) I write frequently enough for the Weekly that I assume, present company excepted, that readers know my values. They are anyway reflected in the Cooper and Cockburn columns, which deal with the issues that do arouse my current indignation: the media's class biases, self-censorship, disinformation peddling, concentration in fewer and fewer wealthy hands, and adhesion to "official truth." As for the Weekly's "unique ability to take important issues and reduce them to self-serving, ill-informed mush," what are you talking about? Our coverage of Central America? Local development issues? Air and water pollution? Homelessness? The impact of Reaganomics? Is it that you believe you're getting the real dope from the rest of the media, or just that you don't like our politics? Alexandra Wolf's doctors, by the way, assure us she is truly afflicted.*




## Great Scott!

*Dear Editor:*

As we all know, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. David Weddle's article on Gene Scott reiterates the ambiguous near-sycophancy of such publications as *Time* magazine. "The most exciting live programming television has to offer." Indeed? Ironic to see Jon Rappoport's article on right-wing evangelism in the same issue. The fact is, Scott is just another TV bore who reads books such as *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, capitalizing on their genuine interest only to denigrate them according to his allegedly profound bull. He finds Jesus Christ (as have dozens of published and discredited religious nuts) in the Great Pyramid, and with typical grammar abjures the faithful, "The fact that Ronald Wilson Reagan adds up to 666 don't mean a thing." Scott spent four years setting up Oral Roberts' organization, then affected to distance himself after Roberts' vision of a 90-foot Jesus. So much for religious insight. Nothing is more pernicious in this world than a liberal facade masking fascist fundamentalism.

—D. Riddell
Hollywood

## Notes From a Fan

*Dear Editor:*

My hat is off to Richard Meltzer for his humorous and accurate portrayal of that fateful evening when he and I came to blows ["$13.01 Before Taxes," *L.A. Weekly*, April 3-9]. I was just a drunken idiot 'n' that is that. I only wish he could have performed his work with as much enthusiasm as that with which I enjoy reading it.

—Bob Forrest
Hollywood

P.S. Did you have to call me a "dickhead" so many times?

## Less of Same

*Dear Editor:*

Some of the articles in the *L.A. Weekly* are very good. However, I am not at all happy with the music section of your publication. It comes off quite biased. The same bands are always spoken of in L.A. Dee Da, such as the Lame Flames, who are extremely lame when it comes to having talent, and the same goes for their back-up band, The Music Awards were a joke! Winners like the Bangles and Lone Justice are hardly overlooked, unappreciated musicians. I feel that the *Weekly* writers only give credit and publicity to bands who they themselves are into (or happen to be friends with). I never see anything in the *Weekly* about some of the great hardcore bands that are around. Maybe it's because you people are too old to appreciate or comprehend any of it. When was the last time Uniform Choice or 7 Seconds was mentioned in L.A. Dee Da? I guess they aren't trendy enough. When it comes to the subject of music, I think I will just stick with publications like *Maximum Rock 'N Roll* and *Flipside*.

—Angelique DeVeau
Eagle Rock

*Write to Editor*, L.A. Weekly, *P.O. Box 29905, L.A., CA 90029. Include name and address (withheld on request) and daytime phone. Letters may be edited.*

MISSING A HUB CAP?
NEED A WHEEL?
HOLLYWOOD HUBCAP AND WHEEL
BUY - SELL - TRADE
NEW & USED
ALL MAKES AND MODELS
MENTION L.A. WEEKLY FOR 10% DISCOUNT
6054 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
(CORNER OF GOWER & SANTA MONICA)
(213) 466-8985

Are You Embarrassed By Bad Credit?
We remove negative ratings from your credit reports
Flat Rate No Hidden Charges
Guaranteed Results Or Your Money Back
— Call —
Security Credit Clearing
(818) 506-1655 (213) 877-1535



Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com